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## GEEO ITINERARY

zJORDAN 4/9/2022– Spring

### **Day 1: Amman Arrive at any time.**

Today is an arrival day and, as travelers are arriving from all corners of the world, there are no planned activities. You are free to arrive in Amman at any time. Hotel check-in is 2:00 p.m., and luggage storage is available if you arrive before your room is ready. In the early evening, you will meet your tour leader and fellow group members for an important group meeting. Check the hotel notice board (or ask reception) for the exact time and location of this meeting. Afterward, there will be the option to head out for a meal together in nearby in a local restaurant. If you arrive late, your group leader will leave you a message at the front desk. Amman is a very big city, and there is not one central area to stay – hotels are spread out across various neighborhoods within the city. For this reason, to move around the city in your free time, you will need to take a taxi, please feel free to ask your tour leader or the hotel front desk for recommendations and assistance.

### **Day 2: Amman/Jerash/Dead Sea/Amman (B) Guided tour of the ancient Roman town of Jerash. Visit the Dead Sea. Return to Amman for the night.**

This morning, we set off on a half-day trip to Jerash, a fascinating site and one of the largest and most well-preserved Roman ruins outside Italy. Wander amid its paved and colonnaded streets, soaring hilltop temples, handsome theaters, spacious public squares, and plazas, baths, fountains, and city walls pierced by towers and gates – all in exceptional condition. We then discover the legendary healing qualities of the Dead Sea, famous for its unique mineral makeup and salinity. Spot salt chunks drifting by like icebergs on the water's surface. Take a dip yourself and float like a buoy or cover yourself in the mud along the shore, believed to have medicinal and therapeutic benefits. There are showers nearby to wash off after. We return to Amman for the night. Approximate travel time: 7-8 hrs total by private vehicle with stops along the way

### **Day 3: Amman/Karak/Petra (B) Guided visit to the Madaba mosaics. Take in the views from Mount Nebo. Visit the crusader castle at Karak. Continue to Wadi Musa for the evening.**

We depart early for the first stop, Mount Nebo, a historic site believed by many to be the location of Moses' death and has thus been a center for pilgrimage since the earliest Christian times. Trek to the summit (817 m or 2,680 ft) and be rewarded with views of the stunning surrounding countryside and Israel in the distance. Learn the ancient history of this spot and check out the views. We continue on to Madaba to explore its long history on this guided tour, including its role as the center of early Christianity. We will see some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in the world, including the famous sixth-century mosaic map of the Middle East. Tour churches, the Archaeological Park, and the local museum that's housed in several old Madaba residences. After, we take a walk through history on a guided tour of Karak Castle, the largest late-Islamic castle in Jordan. Explore its unique construction – initially built in the Crusader period, it was expanded and refortified during the Ayyubid and Mamluk eras. In the early evening, we arrive in Wadi Musa, the town just outside Petra. Approximate travel time: 3-4 hrs total by private vehicle with stops along the way

### **Day 4: Petra (B) Start early to visit iconic Petra. This evening, opt to visit a Turkish bath or visit Petra by night.**

We journey to Petra today to explore this UNESCO World Heritage site. Each tour will be different depending on the interests of the group, but everyone arrives through the dramatic Siq, rounding a corner and setting eyes on the famous treasury building. With time, hike approximately 25 km (15 mi) to cover the entire site. Climb (steps) to two sacred hilltops. Depending on the weather and the interests of the group, you may opt to hike an additional 2 km (1.2 mi) to see the magnificent views from the top of

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the treasury. This makes for a unique and unforgettable experience. We will get a brief history of the city, one of the greatest tourist attractions in the Middle East. The Nabateans carved this capital from the living rock of the surrounding mountains in Petra. Visit monuments that include the Pharaoh's Castle, the triumphal arch, the amphitheater, and the monastery. In the afternoon, you may return to Wādī Mūsá or continue exploring on your own.

**Day 5: Petra/Wadi Rum (B,D) Opt to visit Little Petra in the morning. Continue to Wadi Rum. Head out on a 4x4 excursion during the day before a traditional dinner and overnight at a Bedouin desert camp.**

In the morning, you can take the opportunity to visit Little Petra (Siq al-Barid). We then drive to Wadi Rum, a vast, silent landscape of ancient riverbeds and the largest and most magnificent of Jordan's desert landscapes. Journey into the stunning, colorful desert on a 4x4 excursion. Make stops along the way to get out and explore, learn about the region or scramble up rocks or sand dunes. We arrive at the tented camp in time for a traditional meal and learn more about this ancient culture. There is a large, central tent that is traditionally decorated and perfect for relaxing or escaping the cold nights in winter. Our dinner is prepared in traditional fashion, with the meat and vegetables cooked in an underground oven. Soft drinks and water are available for purchase. Lanterns light the way, but we do suggest you bring a flashlight. Spend the evening sitting under the stars, around a fire, listening to stories from the Bedouin hosts. If really lucky, they may bring the drums out for some music! Accommodation in the desert is in one large goat-hair tent divided into "rooms" with curtains. Basic linens are provided, but many travelers prefer to bring a sleep sheet for extra comfort. There are shared unisex facilities. For religious reasons, no alcohol is permitted at the camp. Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle, 2 hrs by 4x4

**Day 6: Wadi Rum/Aqaba (B) Opt to take a hot air balloon ride at sunrise for incredible views of the desert. After, journey to the Red Sea, where you can opt to snorkel, relax at the beach, or enjoy a relaxing boat trip.**

Today, we drive to the Red Sea resort city of Aqaba where you will have free time to relax at the beach, go snorkeling, or check out the city. Make sure to try some fresh seafood for dinner. Approximate travel time: 1 hr by private vehicle

**Day 7: Aqaba/Amman (B,L) Journey back to Amman. En route stop at a G Adventures- supported community cafe for lunch.**

Today, we journey back to Amman. En route, we will stop at a G Adventures-supported community cafe for lunch. Numeira Environmental Association is a nonprofit organization working in the South Ghour region, south of the Dead Sea, to create a sustainable future for the community. They engage children in environmental education, promote sustainable farming practices while creating jobs and training opportunities through their work. Their tourism program is key to the expansion of their environmental and social mission. Stop for lunch at the Numeira Environmental Cafe to enjoy a traditional Jordanian meal. Take a tour of the grounds and learn about how this small nonprofit is working to create a sustainable future for community members near the Dead Sea. Approximate travel time: 4 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 8: Amman (B) Depart Amman at any time.**

You are free to depart at any time today. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is normally mid-morning, but luggage storage facilities are available. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEE0 trips in the same year and receive a discount! GEE0 will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs). If you don't see a program that interests you that pairs with this trip but still would like to extend your time abroad, let us know. We will work with you to find a non-teacher trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Even better, if you are an educator we can still offer you a discounted price on the trip you choose!